



EMBASSY UPDATES

A Newsletter for U.S. citizens in El Salvador

Winter 2021



Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska

U.S. Embassy San Salvador

American Citizen Services Unit

Monday—Thursday, 7:30 am—11:30 am

Friday, 7:30 am—12:30 am

Email: ACSSanSal@state.gov



NEWS



Change in the passport fees

Are you thinking of renewing your U.S. Passport?

Effective, **December 27, 2021**, total passport fees will increase by \$20. Please see the chart below to know how much you'll pay for your passport renewal.

Passport description	Fee
Renewal adult passport (10 years validity)	\$130
Renewal minor passport (under 16 years old)	\$135
First time adult passport (16 years or older)	\$165
Lost, Stolen or Damaged passport (adults)	\$165
Lost, Stolen or Damaged passport (minors)	\$135

Remember, except for adults renewing their passports by mail (see p.5), fees will be paid at the embassy on the day of your appointment.

For more information on how to renew your U.S. Passport please visit our [website](#).



COVID-19



Entry Requirements to El Salvador and the U.S.

Thinking of coming to El Salvador or returning to the United States for the Holidays?

If you are a U.S. citizen traveling to El Salvador or returning to the U.S. for the upcoming holidays, there have been some policy changes that you need to be aware of.

Visit our website for current information on entry and exit requirements for each country, COVID-19 testing in El Salvador, vaccinations in El Salvador, etc.

[Click here](#)

This will avoid unexpected restrictions/delays when trying to enter either country.

Remember the U.S. Embassy cannot facilitate entry of passengers who arrive without the correct test or vaccination documentation.





To Remember

New Forms to Renew or Apply for a U.S. Passport

The Department of State updated the forms to apply for U.S. passport. As of Oct 1st, the American Citizen Services Unit can now only accept the updated forms to renew or apply for a U.S. passport. If you present an outdated form, you will have to fill out a new one.

To make sure you are using the correct form, please visit the website travel.state.gov. Remember that this website is only for you to fill out and print the form, for instructions and requirements on how to apply for a passport in El Salvador, visit this [link](#).

You can confirm which version you are using by checking the U.S. left corner of the application. The correct forms for each service are:

- Form DS-11 (version 2020)
- Form DS-82 (version 2020)
- Form DS-64 (version 2018)
- Form DS-3053 (version 2020)



Our Services

Renew your Adult U.S. Passport through Cargo Expreso and Pay for It Online

The Embassy is offering adult passport renewal by mail through a local courier service, Cargo Expreso, to qualified applicants. We encourage all qualified applicants to use this service and avoid long delays in scheduling an appointment and inconvenient travel to the Embassy.

You **MUST** meet the following criteria to qualify for this method:

- ☐ Your current U.S. passport book/card is in your possession;
- ☐ You were at least 16 years old when your most recent U.S. passport book/card was issued (10-year validity passport);
- ☐ If expired, your most recent U.S. passport book/card cannot have expired more than 5 years;
- ☐ Your current U.S. passport was issued under your current legal name (no name changes accepted);
- ☐ You can wait up to 3 weeks to receive your new passport (you do not have any emergency travel).



If you are using the Cargo Expreso service to renew your U.S. adult passport, remember you can pay your passport online through the following [pay.gov website](https://pay.gov)

Keep in mind that after successfully paying the fee, you must print out the electronic payment confirmation you receive via email and include it in the package you will send us through Cargo Expreso.

To learn more on how to apply through Cargo Expreso, please visit the following link: [Adult Passport Renewal by Mail Using Cargo Expreso's Courier Service](#)



To Remember

What is a Form DS-3053 and When Should I Use It?

The form DS-3053 is a permission statement that authorizes a person to apply for a passport with a minor under the age of 16.

Children under the age of 16, need permission from both parents to be issued a U.S. passport. The parents or legal guardians must appear in person with the child to request a first-time passport or to renew it. If one of the parents or legal guardians cannot come in-person to apply for the child's passport, they must fill out the form DS-3053 which gives the other parent or legal guardian permission to apply with the child.

This form should be filled out by the parent who cannot attend the interview and signed in front of a public notary or consular officer. Also, they should provide a clear and legible photocopy of the front and back sides of the official document used with the application as an ID. This form is free of charge if notarized at the Embassy.

Note: The original form should be sent to the parent applying with the child. Keep in mind that once the form is signed, it is only valid for 90 days.



To Remember

Do you have questions about your benefits?



The U.S. Embassy in El Salvador does not have a Social Security Office nor a Social Security Representative. If you need to contact the Social Security Administration, you can send an email to: FBUCostaRica@ssa.gov or call **(506) 2519-2228** from **Monday to Thursday between 9:00 am to 11:30 am.**

If you send an email, remember to add the following information:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Your complete social security number
- The country where you're emailing from
- Two phone numbers (include country code)
- Short description of your inquiry



Become a Citizen Liaison Volunteer!

Are you a U.S. citizen residing in Ahuachapán, San Vicente, Chalatenango, Usulután or La Unión?

The U.S. Embassy needs you.

The U.S. Embassy has a network of U.S. citizens who have volunteered to provide assistance during an emergency. As part of the network, they receive periodical training and participate in emergency drills. If you are interested in becoming a Citizen Liaison Volunteer, please email ACSSanSal@state.gov stating your interest and include your contact information.





Travel Safely!

PLAYA SEGURA EL SALVADOR

(SAFE BEACH)

Stay within your swimming capabilities



Check conditions before entering the water



Watch For Rip Currents!!

Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from the shore. Their intensity and direction depend on the tide, the waves, and the wind.

If Caught In A Rip Current:



- Don't swim against the current
- Swim out of the current and then to shore
- If you can't escape, float or tread water
- If you need help, yell and wave for assistance

Thinking of going to the Beach while visiting El Salvador?

Follow the recommendations above and check on social media [MARN](#) , [Civil Protection](#) and the [website](#) of The Ministry of tourism for the latest information regarding sea conditions and water safety.



Closure Dates

The U.S. Embassy in San Salvador will be closed on the following dates:

Nov. 25

Thanksgiving Day

Dec. 24

Christmas Day
(Observed)

Dec. 31

New Year's Day
(Observed)

